

COCCUS CATAPHRACTUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum pectorale.

Abdomen (plerisque) postice setosum.

Alæ duæ erectæ masculis. *Feminæ* apteræ.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 739.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

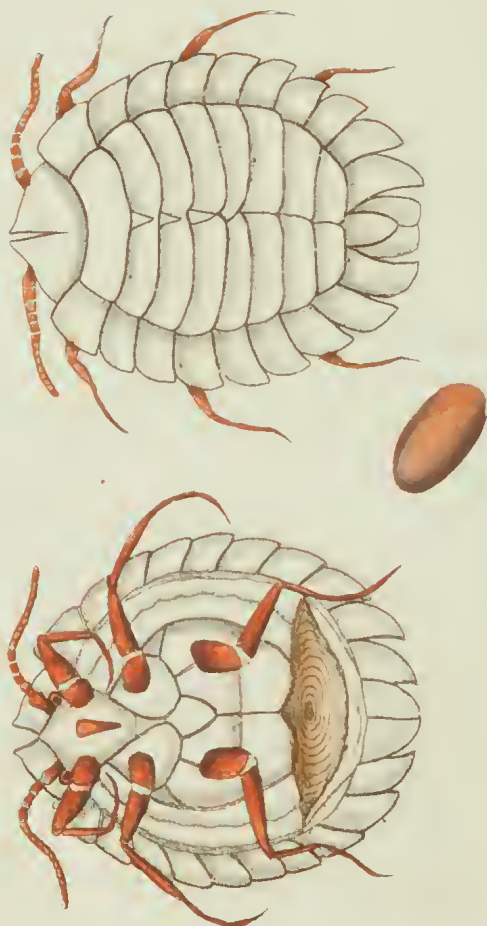
COCCUS albus cataphractus, antennis pedibusque ferrugineis.

Affinis videtur Cocco rusci.

Rarissimum hoc insectum detexit Dominus Dickson, societatis Linnæanæ socius, Museique Britannici hortulanus primarius; ob acumen et diligentiam in botanicis, in ea præcipue parte quæ *cryptogamia* dicitur, merito laudatus; qui pulchro me specimine donavit, rogavitque ut in characteres inquirerem et definirem genus. Cum igitur animalculum ope microscopii penitus examinasset, non dubitavi pronunciare speciem esse generis Cocci, et novam fortasse seu non antea descriptam: frustra enim quæritur in editione systematis Linnæani quam auctiorem

auctiorem longe publicavit Gmelinius, nec non in Fabricii operibus. Notandum est in genere Cocci marem a femina longe differre: est enim alatus, et in cæteris adeo feminæ abfimilis, ut facile putent in insectorum notitia leviter versati eum ad tribum omnino diversam spectare. Cocci, quem ob insigne corporis tegmen *cataphractum* nominavi, quæ adhuc detecta sunt specimina foeminea sunt, mare incognito. Hujus magnitudo eadem fere est ac *Coccinellæ tigrinæ* Linnæi: at inter hanc et alios plerosque coccos adeo disconvenit, ut non mirum sit si primo visu ægre tibi persuadeas posse ulla cum iis affinitate conjungi. Totum insectum, exceptis oculis, rostro, pedibus, antennisque, lorica candidissima contegitur, adeo ut ipso ebore munitum videatur. Annuli seu divisiones dorsi sunt octo; quorum tres superiores scutello vel appendicula instruuntur, quo carent cæteri. Latera corporis laminis exstantibus eodem fere modo quo testudinum notantur. Corporis pars inferior segmentis angulatis et quasi testudineis operitur. Oculi, proxime ab antennis siti, nitidi sunt, et paululum levati, ut sunt astacorum. Color partium prominentium, oculorum nempe, crurum, rostri, et antennarum, est nitide rubroferrugineus. In figura nostra tegmen abdominis inferioris diffractum depingitur, ut scilicet rugæ cutis ostendantur, contractioque corporis, quæ orta est ab exclusa ovorum copia; quorum multa, postquam lorica perruperam, inveni parva pro corpore, et fusca, ut cernere est in tabula. Inter sphagnum, et alia muscosi generis in locis paludosis reperitur *Coccus cataphractus*. Optandum admodum est
posse

posse tandem marem laudabili physicorum diligentia inveniri, ut nihil defuit completæ historiæ. Repertum adhuc est hoc insectum præcipue in Scotia, et in aliquibus Cumbriæ partibus.



THE
MAILED COCCUS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Rostrum situated beneath the thorax.

Abdomen (in most species) bristled.

Wings (in the males two, upright.) The females apterous.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

WHITE MAILED COCCUS, with ferruginous antennæ and legs.

It seems allied to the Coccus rusci.

The very rare and curious insect here represented was discovered by the ingenious Mr. Dickson, Fellow of the Linnæan Society, and Gardener to the British Museum, well known for his attentive researches into that difficult branch of botany the class *Cryptogamia*. Mr. Dickson soon after its discovery presented me with a specimen of the insect, requesting me to examine its characters, and ascertain, if possible, its genus. I accordingly made a microscopic survey of the animal, and on considering

ing it with much attention, I could not but conclude it to be a species of the genus *Coccus*, and probably a new or non-descript one: at least, it does not make its appearance in the greatly enlarged edition of the *Système Naturæ* by professor Gmelin, nor is it to be found in the works of Fabricius. I should observe, that in the insects of the genus *Coccus* the male differs widely in appearance from the female, being furnished with wings, and of a habit so unlike the female as to be easily regarded by those not conversant in insects as of a totally different tribe. The specimens therefore of this insect hitherto observed are female ones; the male yet remaining to be discovered. The natural size of this animal is that of the *Coccinella tigrina*, or yellow-spotted *Coccinella*, and at first view it has an appearance so little allied to the generality of *Cocci* that it is not easy to conceive that it should belong to that tribe. The whole insect (except the eyes, legs, antennæ, and rostrum,) being coated in the most curious manner in a complete suit of milk-white armour, as if cased in ivory. The divisions or annuli of the back are eight in number, of which the three superior ones are each furnished with a small scutellum or appendicular piece, which is wanting in the others. The sides are surrounded by projecting laminæ somewhat in the manner of tortoises. The lower surface is composed of angular pieces nearly disposed as in the above-mentioned animals. The eyes, which are situated just below or on the under side of the antennæ, are bright, and somewhat elevated, not unlike those of a lobster.

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The colour of the projecting parts, viz. the legs, eyes, antennæ, and rostrum, is a fine ferruginous, or reddish-brown. On the lower part of the abdomen the armour is represented broken off; displaying the rugæ, &c. of the skin on that part, and shewing the remarkable contraction which has taken place in consequence of the insects having deposited its ova, many of which I perceived on breaking off this part of the shield. These eggs were small in proportion to the animal, and of a brown colour, as represented in the figure. It is from the singular manner in which this creature is coated that I have given it the name of *Coccus cataphractus*. It is found amongst sphagnum and other mosses in bogs. It is much to be wished that by a diligent research the male may at length be discovered, in order that the history of so curious an insect may be rendered complete. It has been hitherto found chiefly in Scotland and in some parts of Cumberland.